

TRAVELS 1859

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CANDIDATE & CONVENTION 1850

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Abraham Lincoln's Political Career through 1860

Travels 1859

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

**Mr. Lincoln Didn't Think Himself Fit
for the Presidency.**

The Omaha Republican prints a letter from Abraham Lincoln which has some historic interest. The letter was addressed to a gentleman who is now a resident of Omaha, and is as follows: Springfield, Ill., April 16, 1859.

My Dear Sir: Yours of the 15th is just received. My engagements are such that I cannot at any very early day visit Rock Island to deliver a lecture, or for any other object.

As to the other matter you kindly mention, I must in candor say I do not think myself as fit for the presidency. I certainly am flattered and gratified that some partial friends think of me in that capacity, but I really think it best that no concerted effort, such as you suggest, be made. Let this be considered as confidential.

Yours, very truly A Lincoln.

There can be no doubt, from the phraseology of the letter, and the request that it be considered confidential that Mr. Lincoln sincerely distrusted his fitness for the office of President, and deprecated the use of his name in that connection.—January 3, 1880.

LINCOLN IN KANSAS IN 1859

A Chapter of History to Which the Biographers Have Given Little Attention.

His Views of Slavery and the Race Issue Just After His Senatorial Defeat and Before His Nomination for President.

Ex-Senator John J. Ingalls, in New York Sun.

His debate with Douglas in 1858 was the epoch of Lincoln's history. Hitherto his career had been strictly provincial. Entering Congress at the same time that his great rival took a seat in the Senate, in 1847, his single term of service had left no impression on the country. He had reached nearly to the age of fifty years without being known beyond the boundaries of Illinois. His estate, the accumulation of twenty years of professional industry, comprised \$8,000 and a cottage at Springfield. Many of his early contemporaries at the bar had surpassed him, and it appeared that his destiny, which could not be called either fortunate or happy, had been accomplished.

His senatorial campaign resulted in defeat, which made the vanquished the victor, and he immediately assumed national prominence as a politician and a political orator. Adroit observers of those mysterious impulses that direct human affairs perceived his availability in certain contingencies as a presidential candidate, and the movement for his nomination began to take shape early in 1859. It is not certain that these efforts at the outset were encouraged by him. His aspirations were not so high. He was conscious of his deficiencies in knowledge and experience, and was diffident to the verge of self-disparagement. He hesitated to enter the arena of debate, which his friends thought essential to enable him to compete with Seward, who was the acknowledged party leader, the idol of the young Republicans, and the most formidable candidate for the presidential nomination.

The Republicans of Kansas Territory had called a convention to assemble at Osawatomie on the 18th of May, to effect a formal organization of the party, and Mr. Lincoln was invited to be present. He accepted conditionally, but the situation developed so rapidly in Illinois that he was unable to attend. On the 10th of that month the Republicans of that State met at Decatur, and he was announced with great enthusiasm as the "rail-splitter" candidate for the presidency in 1860.

The Wyandotte, Kan., Constitution was framed in July, adopted in October by popular vote, and an election for State officers was held in December, 1859. The canvass was animated, though the result was a foregone conclusion, and again Mr. Lincoln was urged by some of his Illinois friends and acquaintances who had settled in the Territory to address the Republicans upon national politics. This was the pretext, but in fact his appearance was intended as a demonstration to enable him to compete with Seward for the delegation from Kansas in the presidential nominating convention.

HIS FIRST APPEARANCE IN KANSAS.

He accepted the invitation, and the St. Joseph Gazette of Nov. 30, 1859, noticed his arrival in that city on the previous day, en route to the Territory "to make Republican speeches." His first appearance was at the now extinct city of Ellwood, directly opposite St. Joseph, on the Missouri river. The Free Press of that city, Dec. 3, 1859, says that a large number of citizens

gathered at the Great Western Hotel to hear Mr. Lincoln on the evening of Dec. 1. He was received with enthusiasm. He stated the reasons why he was unable to make a speech, and could only say a few words to those who came out to meet him the first time he had placed his foot upon Kansas soil. He said that it was possible the citizens of Kansas Territory had local questions regarding railroads, land grants and internal improvements which were matters of deeper interest to them than the questions arising from national politics, but of these local interests he knew nothing, and should say nothing. They had, however, just adopted a State Constitution, and it was probable that under that Constitution their Territorial existence would soon cease, and they would come forward to take their place in the brotherhood of States and act their part as a member of the confederation. Kansas would be free, but the same questions which had existed here in regard to freedom or slavery would arise in regard to other Territories, and they would have to take part in deciding them. People often asked, "Why make such a fuss about a few niggers." He said, "I answer the question by asking what will you do to dispose of this question? The slaves constitute one-seventh of our entire population. Wherever there is an element of this magnitude in a government it will be talked about. The general feeling in regard to slavery has changed entirely since the early days of the Republic. You may examine the articles of confederation in the convention that framed the Constitution, and in the first session of Congress, and you will not find a single man saying that slavery is a good thing. They all believed it was an evil. They prohibited the African slave trade. Having thus limited the extension and cut off its supply, the fathers of the Republic believed that slavery would soon disappear. There are only three clauses in the Constitution which refer to slavery, and in neither of these is the word slave or slavery mentioned. The word is not used in the clause prohibiting the African slave trade; it is not used in the clause which includes slaves in the basis of representation; it is not used in the clause requiring the return of fugitive slaves. And yet in all the details of the Constitution the question was discussed and slaves and slavery talked about.

WHY IT WAS OMITTED.

"Now, why was this word kept out of that instrument, and so carefully kept out that a European, be he ever so intelligent, if not familiar with our institutions, might read the Constitution over and over again and never learn that slavery existed in the United States. The reason is this. The framers of the organic law believed that the Constitution would outlast slavery, and they did not want a word there to tell future generations that slavery had been legalized in America. This Territory has had a marked history. No other Territory has ever had such a history. There has been strife and bloodshed here. Both parties have been guilty of outrages." Mr. Lincoln said he had his opinions as to the relative guilt of the parties, but he would not say who had been most to blame. "One fact was certain. There had been loss of life; destruction of property; our national interests had been retarded. Was this desirable? There is a peaceable way of settling these questions, the way adopted by the government until a recent period. The bloody code has grown out of the new policy in regard to the government of the Territories." In conclusion Mr. Lincoln adverted briefly to the Harper's Ferry incident. He believed the attack of Brown wrong, for two reasons. First, it was a violation of law, and second, it was, as all such attacks must be, futile, as far as any effect it might have in the extinction of the great evil. We have a means provided for the expression of our belief in regard to slavery. It is through the ballot-box, the peaceful method provided by the Constitution. John Brown has shown great courage and rare unselfishness, as Governor Wise testifies, but no man North or South can approve of violence or crime. Mr. Lincoln closed his speech by urging all to vote as became the free men of Kansas.

Leaving Ellwood, Mr. Lincoln drove to Troy, where he delivered a brief speech in the afternoon, to which Col. A. G. Ege replied. He continued his journey to Doniphan, where he passed the night, making a short address in the dining-room of the hotel to a small audience. There he was met by A. D. Richardson, by whom the next morning, Dec. 2, he was conducted to Atchison. He was entertained at the Massasoit House, and in the evening delivered an address at the Methodist Church, which was described by Gen. Stringfellow as the most logical and vigorous he had ever heard from a Republican orator. It was the evening of the day that John Brown was executed at Charlestown. The telegraphic an-

nouncement of the execution had been received in the afternoon. One of the most dramatic incidents of the speech of Mr. Lincoln, who pursued substantially the same line of argument developed at Cooper Institute in the following February, was an allusion to the Harper's Ferry incident. Referring to the threats of disunion by Southern leaders in case of the election of a Republican President he said this would be treason—"and if you are guilty of treason we will hang you, as you have hanged old John Brown this afternoon."

During his stay at the hotel he exhibited many of the characteristics for which he is famous, particularly in the relation of anecdotes, and was constantly surrounded by the drivers and employes of the Overland stage line, whom he entertained with his conversation, and with whom he became exceedingly popular. In conversation with a young man, Springfielder, he said: "General, one of the arguments you Democrats used to present why Kansas should be a slave State was that no one but a 'nigger' could turn up the tough prairie sod. Now, in my time I have broken many acres of prairie sod, and under this argument the question recurs whether I am a white man or a 'nigger.'" One of his auditors, speaking of his address, says: "I shall never forget how Lincoln looked, standing in the little box of a pulpit, with his strange, ungraceful gesticulations, as he leaned over, seeming with his long arms almost as if he could touch his hearers upon the back benches."

PREDICTING WAR.

From Atchison he drove to Leavenworth, and the Times of Dec. 3, announcing his expected arrival, called upon its readers to give the gallant champion of freedom a reception fitting his great talents, his stirring eloquence, his devotion to the cause of liberty. He was met by a procession upon the Fort Leavenworth military reservation and escorted to his hotel, where he was received with a speech of welcome from Col. Vaughan, to which he responded briefly, giving a hasty but graphic sketch of the Republican party, the trials of Free-state men in making Kansas the home of liberty, and said that we were about to enter upon a final battle for free institutions. His speech at Stockton Hall in the evening was upon popular sovereignty and the inconsistency of Democracy. He declared that the Republican party was the custodian of the principles of Washington, Madison, Jefferson and the founders of our government. In his second speech, on Monday, Dec. 5, he opened by a review of the policy of the government from the outset, and showed it was for liberty. The fathers did not seek to interfere with slavery where it existed, but to prevent its extension, and this was the policy of the Republican party to-day. Divisions of sentiment among Democrats were immaterial. The most advanced element only boasted of indifference, which was all the slave power asked as a virtual recognition of the right of slavery to universal extension. If your house is on fire, there can be but two parties, one in favor of putting it out, and one in favor of letting the conflagration go on; but the popular sovereignty fellows stood aloof, saying that the house must take care of itself, subject to the conditions of fire and water. Mr. Lincoln commented with much humor upon Douglas and his theory of the fore-ordained geographical line, on one side of which slave labor could alone be employed, and on the other free. He said that a line drawn by God ought to be plain and palpable, but that geographers had not traced it on the map. He distinctly repelled the attempt to identify the Republican party with John Brown. While he sympathized with Brown's hatred of slavery he denounced his insurrectionary attempt as insane, and declared that he had yet to find the first Republican who indorsed the movement of Brown and his associates. If there were one, he said, he advised him to step out of the ranks and correct his politics, but slavery was responsible, and such upheavals must constantly occur so long as slavery existed.

Democracy comprised two elements—the original Simon-pure, unadulterated Democrats and the old-line and eminently conservative Whigs. This party perpetually charged Republicans with favoring negro suffrage, sustaining this charge by referring to 175 Republican States, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, where negroes were allowed to vote, but this law was enacted in New Hampshire by Democrats and in Massachusetts by old-line Whigs. In Kansas, where Republicans had freedom to act, the organic law confined the elective franchise to white men alone, and this met with his approval. In their political speeches the Democracy sneered at amalgamation, but while there were 179 mulattoes in Massachusetts, there were 79,000 in the good old Democratic State of Virginia, and the only notable instance of miscegenation that occurred to him was the case of a Democratic Vice-president.

Lincoln declared that he wanted the races kept distinct and separate. Because he did not want a negro woman for a slave it did not follow that he wanted her for his wife. Such diatribes were perpetrated by the Democrats to divert attention from the real issue, the extension or non-extension of slavery; its localization or non-localization. He closed by a forcible definition of the aims and principles of the Republican party, showing how these harmonized with the teachings of those by whom the government was established, and how their dominance was essential to the proper development of our glory, to the salvation of the Union, and the perpetuity of free institutions.

In an editorial the Times says that its report was the merest outline of a speech which must be regarded as one of the orator's ablest and best efforts. He made no display and no attempt at oratory, but gave home-bred truth in a home-bred style that charmed the hearts of his hearers. His noble sentiments carried conviction and aroused enthusiasm, and he was greeted at its close with cordial cheers.

The next day he departed for his home in Springfield. Three months later he delivered the historic oration in New York. In less than a year he had been elected President. Emerging from the profoundest obscurity he became the central figure in the most stupendous tragedy of time, and passing through the gate of martyrdom took his place unchallenged among the leaders of mankind whose fame will remain so long as the race shall endure.

This episode has escaped the attention of the biographers of Lincoln, but it possesses deep interest and significance as an illustration of his views upon slavery and his relations to the struggle that resulted in its destruction. His renown will rest mainly upon his connection with the abolition of slavery, but he was not an Abolitionist. He condemned and repudiated John Brown and the insurrection at Harper's Ferry, but he took the standard that fell from his hand on the scaffold at Charlestown and bore it to Appomattox. In 1859 he believed in the supremacy of the Anglo-Saxon, the separation of the races, and was opposed to negro suffrage, but he perceived the popular will and executed its decrees. This is the only leadership that is possible in a democracy. Whether he would have been equally successful in conducting the Nation through the perils of reconstruction must always remain one of the most interesting conjectures of history. God is just, and we may conclude therefore, without irreverence, that his work was done. *Finis coronat opus.*

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PETTENGILL

'The Gentleman from Indiana'
INSIDE YOUR CONGRESS

BY SAMUEL B. PETTINGILL

One year before Lincoln was first nominated for President, he was invited to make the chief address at a dinner in Boston, Mass., in 1859, on Jefferson's birthday. He was not able to go, but wrote a letter to be read at the meeting. In it he said:

"Soberly, it is now no child's play to save the principles of Jefferson from total overthrow in this Nation. . . . The principles of Jefferson are the definitions and axioms of a free society. And yet they are denied and evaded with no small show of success. Some bluntly call them 'self-evident lies.'"

"These expressions, differing in form, are identical in object and effect—the supplanting of the principles of free government. . . ."

"We must repulse them or they will subjugate us. This is a world of compensation; and he who would be no slave must consent to have no slave. Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves, and, under a just God, cannot long retain it."

"All honor to Jefferson—to the man who, in the concrete pressure of a struggle for national independence . . . had the coolness, foresight, and capacity to state an abstract truth, applicable to all men and all times, and so to embalm it there that today and in all coming days it shall be a rebuke and a stumbling-block to the harbingers of reappearing tyranny and oppression."

Adopted Jefferson's Philosophy
The Republican Party, soon to

win its first victory, was composed of Whigs and anti-slave Democrats. It came as a result of a breakup of established parties and the realignment of political forces.

The platform of the Republican Party in 1860 shows that the party itself adopted Jefferson's basic philosophy. I quote from the 1860 platform as follows: "The maintenance of the principles promulgated in the Declaration of Independence

and embodied in the Federal Constitution . . . are essential to the preservation of our republican institutions; the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each state to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depends. The people justly view with alarm the reckless extravagance which pervades every department of the Federal Government; a return to rigid economy and accountability is indispensable to arrest the systematic plunder of the public Treasury by favored partisans."

Defended State Rights

In the first draft of the Declaration of Independence Jefferson attempted to obtain a prohibition against the extension of slavery, and 11 years later in the Ordinance of 1787 for the Government of the Northwest Territory (comprising the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin), Jefferson's thought was embodied in these words: "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said Territory otherwise than in the punishment of crimes."

Half a century later Lincoln criticized the Dred Scott decision, because it would not allow the State of Illinois to make free a slave voluntarily brought into that state by his master. In other words, Lincoln defended the great principle of state rights.

From all this it is clear that it was only after Lincoln had groped his dark way to a martyr's tomb that the party of which he was the chief founder, during the tragic days of reconstruction, and later yielding to the new nationalism following the war with Spain, gradually and by degrees almost imperceptable to its adherents, left its ancient landmarks, abandoned its primary loyalty to "the definitions and axioms of a free society" and gradually embraced the centralizing teachings of Alexander Hamilton as one of its major prophets.

On Lincoln's birthday, 1946, I offer this record for the consideration of Jeffersonian Democrats and Republicans. Why cannot they now join forces to resist the centralizing philosophy of today which both Jefferson and Lincoln so strongly opposed?

LINCOLN LORE

Bulletin of the Lincoln National Life Foundation - - - - - Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
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January 24, 1949

THE EAST SCRUTINIZES A WESTERNER

Steps to the Wigwam, No. 7

Each step which Abraham Lincoln took in approaching the Chicago Wigwam seems to have been made deliberately and with a full realization of its importance as a contributing factor to his political advancement. The significance of Abraham Lincoln's appearance at Cooper Institute, New York City, on the night of February 27, 1860, has been somewhat obscured by the erroneous supposition that it was but a stop en route to visit with his son, then in school at Exeter, New Hampshire. By the time Lincoln received the invitation to visit New York the political importance of such an appearance far outweighed any filial considerations which he may have entertained.

The Lincoln Papers in the Library of Congress are contributing to a better understanding of many episodes in the life of Abraham Lincoln. The steps to the Wigwam no longer appear as isolated events but become closely related and coordinated. Each incident seems to be largely dependent on the episode which has preceded it. Three days after the strategic debate at Freeport, Illinois, on August 27, 1858, James A. Briggs of New York wrote to Lincoln stating in part: "There is a deep interest felt here in the Illinois election contest. I hope you will win a great and glorious victory. Judge Douglas last winter had a noble position. He has lost it now. He was not the *Man of the Hour*."

By the spring of 1859 Lincoln's political ambitions for some recognition in the 1860 campaign began to send their roots down a little deeper. Apparently his note to T. J. Pickett of Rock Island on March 5 stating, "I do not think I am fit for the Presidency," was not very convincing because Pickett wrote to him a week later as to "the policy of announcing your name for the Presidency." The day after Pickett's communication Salmon Portland Chase wrote to Lincoln as follows: "Permit me to congratulate you on the present aspect of the Republican cause." Then referring to the debates he said, "The people will not forget the champion who merited, if circumstances did not permit him to achieve, victory."

Coming from such a prominent figure as Chase this must have encouraged Lincoln to think of still further cultivating the good will of the people in nearby states. Possibly the most significant visit was to Chase's own state, Ohio. The reaction to his speeches were so enthusiastic that he could have had no further doubt about being "fit" for a presidential candidacy at least. Sam Galloway wrote from Columbus on Oct. 13: "His (Chase's) nomination for the presidency would sink us. . . . Your name should be used in the canvass for candidates. Your visit to Ohio has created an extensive interest in you." A by-product of the Ohio visit was the publication of the Lincoln-Douglas Debates.

Previous to the Ohio visit, which called for speeches at Columbus, Dayton, Hamilton, and Cincinnati, and also at Indianapolis, en route to Illinois, Lincoln had gone to Iowa for a speech at Council Bluffs. Wishing to extend his political influence still further, he reached north to Wisconsin and spoke at Milwaukee, Beloit, and Janesville. Kansas was the next state cultivated and speeches were arranged at Elwood, Troy, Doniphan, Atchison, and finally, Leavenworth, which was his point of destination.

Apparently the visits of Lincoln to Ohio and Wisconsin stirred up the New York Republicans as on October 12, 1859, Lincoln received the following telegram from James A. Briggs of New York, the same Briggs who had complimented him so highly during the debates.

A copy of the telegram follows:

"Hon. A. Lincoln

Will you speak in Mr. Beecher's church Brooklyn on or about twenty-ninth (29) November on any subject you please pay two hundred (200) dollars.

James A. Briggs"

Now Lincoln sees an opportunity to extend his influence eastward and decides to give the easterners an opportunity to scrutinize a westerner, and he advised James A. Briggs, his New York correspondent: "I will be on hand, and in due time notify you of the exact date. I believe, after all I shall make a political speech of it." By February 15th arrangements for Lincoln's visit to New York were completed and he received a note from Briggs stating, "The committee will advertise you for the evening of the twenty-seventh with hope that you will be in good health, and spirit, as you will meet here in this great commercial metropolis a right cordial welcome."

Three days before he delivered his Cooper Institute speech this appeal came from C. B. Post of Hartford, Conn.:

"Our opponents are moving 'heaven and earth' to cut down our small majority, knowing full well this is their last chance for breaking the Republican front in New England and we will feel bound to call upon all friends of the cause to help us in our emergency." The same day a call came from Reading, Penn. All this before the address itself. After the speech a deluge of requests for speeches reached Lincoln before he returned home.

Hiram Barney wrote Lincoln the day after the Cooper Union effort: "The Tribune has a good report of the words of your speech, what a pity it cannot give the manner of it. It was a rare treat last night that the Republicans of New York enjoyed."

The New England itinerary planned for Lincoln during the visit to the east was extended considerably and while it has been argued that Lincoln purposely evaded speaking in Massachusetts, on both his way to and from New Hampshire, he did have an invitation to address the state convention at Worcester. A prominent Boston Republican was greatly disappointed because he did not speak in the Hub City. Possibly the real cause for not speaking in Massachusetts is found in this advice from E. A. Rollins who stated that although Massachusetts would like very much to have him, "Yet I certainly think the Connecticut people need you more and have more right to claim you."

We have mentioned the letter written to Lincoln during the Debates in 1858 by James A. Briggs who advised Lincoln that the east was interested in the contest. We have observed that it was Briggs who was largely responsible for Lincoln's appearance at Cooper Institute. It was this same James A. Briggs who at the close of Lincoln's speech at the Institute was called upon for a comment and this is what he said:

"One of the three gentlemen, fellow-citizens, will be our standard bearers this year in the Presidential contest: the distinguished senator from New York, Wm. H. Seward; the late able and distinguished governor of Ohio, Salmon P. Chase; or the 'Unknown Knight' who entered the political lists against the Bois-Guilbert of Democracy, Stephen A. Douglas, and unhorsed him—Abraham Lincoln."

Back home in Illinois friends were getting reports about the reaction to Lincoln's speeches in the East. C. D. Hay wrote, "Nothing has transpired recently to so much advance your interests and elevate you in the minds of the people as that short trip." The Cooper Institute speech, and the events associated with it, contained the ingredients of a very important step to the Wigwam.

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**Golden Anniversary Year
1899-1949**

MAY 20-21, Spring Tour to Cahokia for the 250th Anniversary of the
Founding of the Oldest Settlement in the Mississippi Valley.
OCTOBER 7-8, Annual Meeting at Springfield in Celebration of the
Society's Fiftieth Anniversary.

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Peoria, Illinois
1112 Prospect Road

February 19, 1949.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Friend Warren:

In Lincoln Lore No. 1033
you mention a note alleged to have been
written to T. J. [Thomas Johnson] Pickett
on March 5, 1859. This appears in Tracy,
Uncollected Letters of Abraham Lincoln, 104.

I am of the opinion that the letter is
spurious.

My reason,, among others, is founded on
a written statement made by Pickett. In the
Daily State Journal of Lincoln, Neb., printed
on April 12, 1881, Pickett wrote and signed an
article entitled: "Reminiscences of Abraham
Lincoln." In this he said; "Early in April, 1859,
I addressed a letter to Mr. Lincoln inviting him
to visit Rock Island and deliver his lecture on
'The Dignity of Labor.'" I also stated in a post-
script that I intended to confer with republican
editorial friends in the several sections of the
state with a view of bringing ~~forward~~ his name
forward as a presidential candidate. He replied
as follows:"

Then follows the text of Lincoln's letter
dated April 16, 1859.

Had Pickett written two letters to Lincoln
he doubtless would have remembered the number. *How did he?*

The original is owned, as you may know, by
Oliver Barrett. I have an interesting letter from
Thomas J. Pickett ^{now} since deceased, on the subject
of the loss of the letter. It was loaned and
never returned but he was content to know it was
in the hands of Barrett. Sincerely, *Ernest E. East*

February 25, 1949

Mr. Ernest E. East
1112 Prospect Road
Peoria, Illinois

Dear Mr. East:

This is to advise you that
Dr. Warren is out of the office at present
on an extensive speaking itinerary and will
not return until the latter part of March.
Upon his return, I will bring your letter
to his attention.

Very truly yours,

mm

Secretary to Dr. Warren

April 12, 1949

Mr. Ernest E. East
1112 Prospect Road
Peoria, Illinois

My dear Mr. East:

Back at my desk after so long a period away, I am trying to pick up some of the correspondence, and have just come to the statement with respect to the Pickett letter. I think probably your assumption is correct. What Tracy printed was apparently someone's memory of the contents of the letter because undoubtedly the April 16 letter is the official and original one in which the statement appear.

You will observe in my conclusions that it seems rather strange that Pickett should be writing a week later about the policy of announcing Lincoln's name, if Lincoln had already warned him against doing anything about it.

I shall at some convenient season call attention to this probable error in date.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

WHEN ABE WENT WEST

Indians, the fur trade and gold strikes interested Abraham Lincoln. He plied the ship's captain with many questions.

By WALTER E. TAYLOR

THE tall man in the stovepipe hat came to the pilot house of the river steamer every afternoon and he was a great one to draw a man out. As the pilot guided the vessel skillfully among the snags and sandbars of the Missouri river, his visitor plied him with questions.

It was the year 1859 and this steamer and others like it were the country's only links with the scattered settlements of the then far west of the Dakotas, Montana, and all the vast territory of the Missouri basin. The sad-faced man in the odd hat was interested in everything about the great new western country—the Indians, the fur trade, the gold strikes.

Observing the Country

At the wheel of that steamer was Capt. Joseph La Barge, master, owner, and pilot of the good ship Emilie, then the finest craft on the St. Louis-Montana run. The gentleman with the questions was Abraham Lincoln, and when the memoirs of Captain La Barge were published in 1903, he recorded that in all his career he had never met anyone who could get information out of a man the way Abraham Lincoln could.

Those conversations in the wheelhouse of the Emilie took place while Lincoln was on one of the few visits he ever made to the then frontier. He was making political speeches, observing country, and making small investments in real estate while traveling from St. Louis to Council Bluffs, Ia., aboard the steamer.

The ship was en route to the fur trading posts of the upper Missouri—the country of the Crow, the Sioux, and the Blackfeet. Lincoln would have liked to go up the river to the terminus at Fort Benton, Montana territory, but he was already deep in his campaign for the presidential nomination and there was not time.

Captain La Barge told an interviewer many years later that the tall and slender build of Mr.

Lincoln, his high hat, sallow complexion and not very elegant costume, gave him a somewhat comical appearance at first sight.

When Lincoln left the Emilie at Council Bluffs, he again mentioned his wish to visit the upper river country and asked the captain to purchase a buffalo robe for him.

One of the subjects which most interested Lincoln was the Indian problem, and on this the captain was well qualified to give information.

La Barge had been on the St. Louis-Montana steamboat run for nearly thirty years. During that time he had ample opportunity to observe the dealings of the many dishonest agents who had been placed in the west to pacify the Indians, but who, by their frauds and mistreatment of the tribesmen, actually were at the bottom of much of the so-called "Indian troubles." La Barge told Lincoln what he knew.

It was Lincoln's belief that the Indian problems could be settled without bloodshed. He knew that the west was on the threshold of a great development which would require some sort of settlement with the Indians before it could proceed.

Plans Failed

But after Lincoln became president the Civil war required his full attention and plans he had for the settlement of the Indian question were never carried out. Less noble men had their way in a government policy which resulted in a quarter century of Indian wars and massacres. Had Lincoln lived, most of the Indian wars might never have taken place.

Next to the slavery question, the development of the west was the great topic of interest at the time. In Council Bluffs, Lincoln discussed the building of the transcontinental railroad, mining and farming possibilities.

Although Council Bluffs was

then but a tiny settlement, Lincoln expressed his faith in its future by purchasing a lot there. By coincidence the land he purchased was right next to a plot which had been sold to Senator Vallandigham of Ohio, Lincoln's greatest political foe and one of those behind a scheme to divide the west into a group of separate republics, with slavery a government-approved policy.

Lincoln's Talk Applauded

Of Lincoln's western visit, the Council Bluffs weekly Nonpareil of Aug. 13, 1859, said: "Hon. Abe Lincoln and the secretary of state for Illinois arrived in our city last evening and are stopping at Pacific house. The distinguished 'sucker' had yielded to earnest importunities of our citizens and will speak on issues of the day at Concert hall this evening. The celebrity of the speaker will most certainly insure him a full house. Go and hear 'Old Abe.'"

Later the Nonpareil applauded Lincoln's talk and told how he had "applied the scalpel to the Democratic carcass." Another paper, the Weekly Bugle, was not so kind. It described his performance as "nauseous."

Captain La Barge and Lincoln did not terminate their acquaintance with those visits in the pilot house of the Emilie those lazy summer afternoons of 1859.

The robe Lincoln got was not of buffalo hide, but was made of ten choice beaver skins from the Missouri country. La Barge recalled that when Lincoln received the robe he wrapped it about his body and performed an impromptu Indian dance.

In 1863 the captain again visited Washington and repeated to Lincoln his account of the suffering of the Indians at the hands of government agents, of the frauds in handling Blackfoot annuities.

At this, Lincoln said, "But wait until I get this rebellion off my hands and I will take up this question to see that justice is done the Indians." His assassination thwarted this hope.

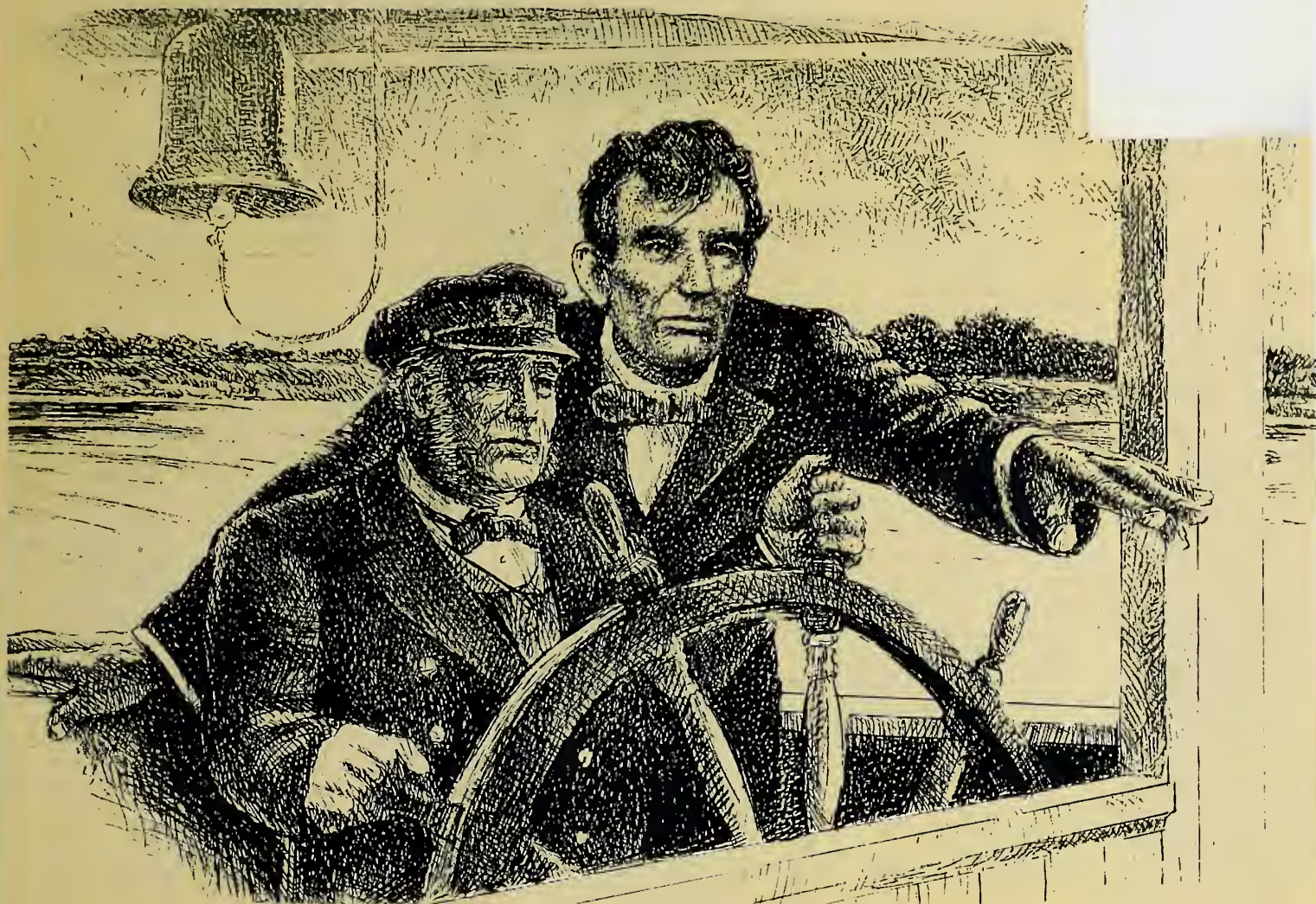


ILLUSTRATION BY HERNDON DAVIS.

In the pilot house of the river steamer Emilie, Abe Lincoln chatted each afternoon with Captoin LaBarge. Lincoln was on

one of his few visits to the then frontier country of the wide Missouri basin. He sought information on the vast new west.

NEW ENGLANDERS ADVISED TO MARK LINCOLN VISITS

To the Editor:

• On Feb. 27, 1860, Abraham Lincoln of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois—not previously known at first hand in New York—spoke at Cooper Union. He addressed himself to the day's agonizing chief issue of slavery and ended with the challenge: "Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."

In the following 11 days, the 51-year-old attorney issued substantially the same call in 11 New England cities and towns. (Providence, Feb. 28; Concord and Manchester, N.H., March 1; Dover and Exeter, March 2 and 3; Hartford, New Haven and Meriden, March 5, 6 and 7; Woonsocket, March 8; Norwich, March 9; and Bridgeport, March 10.) On the morning of March 12, he took the return train from New York for home. With no further out-of-Illinois appearances, he was nominated for the Presidency on May 18, elected Nov. 6. The 12 days from February 27 through March 10, 1860, in effect contained his combined primary and election campaigns.

The Connecticut talks would seem well worth commemorating in some bi-partisan way on the appropriate date at each of the places where they were given. As well, may a Lincoln Democrat be allowed to commend the not-quite-finished work then begun—and the standard of quality once set for the course—to the attention of all candidates in this hundredth year since Mr. Lincoln took the ears from Springfield to pay us that visit?

CHARLES O'NEILL

*Spiro, Herzl Robert

Ex Libris. Lincoln face in upper left above U.S. Supreme Court Building, with inscription "Equal justice under law." Picture of Theodore Herzl, upper right, above burning bush. Hebrew motto "and the bush was not consumed," Ex. 3:2, on left flambeau. On right five branched candlestick.

Starr, John William Jr.

Library of Lincolniana. (Same design as E. M. Freeman.)

Starr, Thomas Irwin

From the Lincoln library of Detroit, Michigan. "Lincoln borrowed most of the books he ever read. He returned them . . . He was a great man." Lincoln profile above.

Stewart, Judd

Ex libris. Motto: *Verdad es Verde*. Engraved by Arthur N. Macdonald 1909. Profile portrait (Meserve 84) reversed. The Stewart Collection went to the Huntington Library.

Stewart, Judd

Ex Libris. *Verdad es Verde*. Profile portrait of Lincoln within wreath. (Meserve 84) reversed. Cap L with rays. Earlier and simpler than the Macdonald engraved plate.

Stone, Edward Carlton

Collector of Lincolniana. Books with Lincoln bookends. By Bernhardt Wall.

*Strasbourg

Bibliothèque-Americaine de L'Université de, surrounding an oval portrait of Lincoln. Inscription: Fondation / Vesta-Westover-Channon / le 6 Octobre 1923 a Strasbourg a la glorieuse memoire de Pasteur / No. Don de/Engraved by Agry. Rectangular.

Sumner, G. Lynn

Ex libris. By R. K. L. 1927. Drawing of a smiling and reading Lincoln.

*Tarbell, Ida M.

From the Lincoln Collection of. Book shelves with silhouette of Lincoln in tall hat. Signed RMH.

Townsend, William H.

Ex Libris. Young Lincoln in arm chair studying. "The books and your capacity for understanding them, are just the same in all places." A. Lincoln in script.

Tracy, Gilbert A.

Collection. His Gift to the Watkinson Library, Hartford, Conn., through his Daughter, 1918. Lincoln portrait by Hicks, Transferred to Trinity College Library 1954.

Turner, Justin G.

Ex libris. Partial facsimile of Declaration of Independence and on book "Manuscripts and Autographs." Pictured are Lincoln, Jefferson and Washington.

Underwood, E. R.

Ex Libris. Army caps on crossed swords before full face portrait of Lincoln. Meserve 59, drawn by Jerome Connolly, no border.

Wall, Doris Turbet, Bernhardt, M/S James Webster Moray

Lincoln portrait, books, elephants, floral decorations. Signed by Bernhardt Wall. 1944.

Washington, State College of

Lincoln Collection. Gift of Mrs. A. W. Witherspoon of Spokane.

"With Malice Toward None, With Charity for All." Lincoln head in seal.

Weil, Richard

Engraved by Arthur N. Macdonald 1918. A corner in a library with an oval picture of Lincoln on the wall.

Winchester Public Library,

Winchester, Massachusetts

Gift from Edgar J. Rich for the Lincoln and Lee Library, "given in the hope that by the study of these two great Americans there may come a better understanding between the North and the South." Floral border, silhouettes of Lincoln and Lee. Designed by Ernest Dudley Chase, 1952.

Lincoln Collectors' Bookplates

In addition to the Lincoln bookplates that have been acquired by the Foundation, a collateral group has been assembled of the collectors whose libraries contained sizeable quantities of Lincolniana. They follow: E. L. Bangs, G. W. Brackenridge (from this library Lincoln is said to have borrowed books), Harlan F. Burket, The University of Chicago Libraries, O. T. Carson, Crampton, H. Alfred Fowler, Frank P. Hadley, George P. Hambrecht (his bookplate states that "Books Like Chickens, Should Come Home To Roost"), Robert P. King (Collector of Lincoln medals and Medallions), John Friend Lodge, William P. Palmer, Adam Pietz, Edgar J. Rich, Otto L. Schmidt, F. Darwin Smith, Edith Getts Truesdell, Winfred Porter Truesdell, Thomas Irwin Starr, Agnes E. and Alfred Stern, Judd Stewart, Hal W. Trovillion, B. George Ulizio, State College of Washington, F. G. Weeks, Abel Mortimer White, Yale University Library (Gift of Stuart W. Jackson) and Jeremiah Zimmerman (Library of Gettysburg College).

Places Lincoln Visited

Editor's Note: The August, 1969 issue was given over to the topic "Places, Villages, Towns and Cities Where Lincoln Lived and Visited." In the article the statement was made that the compilation was not considered complete, and that the editor was eager to learn of other places that Lincoln visited. Several letters have been received from our subscribers calling attention to places not included in the compilation, as well as a few errors as to spelling and dates.

R. G. M.

Dr Louis A. Warren, in his book *Lincoln's Youth—Indiana Years Seven to Twenty-one 1816-1836*, Appleton, Century, Crofts, Inc., 1959 on pages 137-138, is of the opinion that Lincoln may have visited Vincennes as early as 1824 along with other Indiana towns: namely, Boonville, Princeton (*Lincoln Lore* 1193), Troy, Portersville and Petersburg. Also, Monroe City is in Indiana and not Illinois.

There is also ample evidence that Lincoln visited Eureka, Illinois, as a marker appears in that city on the site of the Walnut Grove Academy, with the inscription "Lincoln Spoke Here—1856." Another subscriber has pointed out that Lincoln's first visit to Bloomington, Illinois, was in 1837. In reading *Lincoln Day By Day—A*

Chronology, the editor discovered on page 230 of volume II, 1849-1860 that in 1858 "Winchester Republicans escorted him (Lincoln) to Florence on Illinois River, where party from Pittsfield meets him." Florence cannot be found on a modern road map.

Other Illinois places not appearing in the original compilation include Rockford, 1855 (See *Lincoln Lore* 1516); Stillman Valley (a monument calls attention to Lincoln's visit); Macoupin Point, 1834; Lexington, 1860; Fairfield(?) and Sublett, 1832. Lincoln passed through Naples as early as 1852 rather than 1854, and through Hillsboro as early as 1834 rather than 1843. Lewistown should be spelled Lewistown. Without a doubt many other Illinois places could be added to the list, but the line has to be drawn somewhere.

Inadvertently, Concord, New Hampshire was omitted from the compilation, and it is definitely known that Lincoln spoke there on Thursday, March 1, 1860 at 2 o'clock P.M.

Several letters have been received insisting that Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln visited Cape May, New Jersey, citing as evidence the hotel guest register of the Mansion House. The register contains this information: "A. Lincoln & wife—Phila. Room 24" under the date of July 31, 1849.

Lincoln Day By Day — A Chronology, vol. II, page 18, carries this entry for July 31, 1849: "Lincoln, writes, signs, and files in Sangamon Circuit Court, declaration and affidavit in Henry Butler v Oliver Davis." Also on July 28, 1849 page 17 of the above mentioned work, this entry is found: "Lincoln writes (from Springfield, Illinois) to John M. Clayton criticizing policy of leaving responsibility for appointments to departments."

We know that on June 11, 1849 Lincoln left Springfield en route to Washington, D.C. He was unaccompanied. On June 25, he was en route home. There appears to be no evidence that will sustain the Cape May, New Jersey claim. Then, too, it is hard to believe that Lincoln would give as his residence the city of "Phila." A further check reveals that Mrs. Ruth Painter Randall, in her book *Mary Lincoln—Biography of a Marriage*, Little, Brown and Company, 1953, does not place Mrs. Lincoln at any time during her life in Cape May.

Lincoln visited Rockville, Maryland in 1848, and made a second visit there in August 1861. Frederick W. Seward, in *Reminiscences of a War Time Statesman and Diplomat 1830-1915*, writes (page 175) that he accompanied his father, the President and General McClellan to Maryland where arrangements were made to meet "General Banks . . . at his headquarters at Rockville." The purpose of the trip was a conference with Banks about his actions in connection with suppressing the (unexpected) "secession session" of the Maryland Legislature in September.

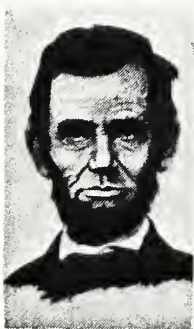
Now for a correction, Atchison, Kansas was misspelled.

Lincoln's Travels In Kansas

By Sr. Pierre

On the eve of the hanging of John Brown in Virginia, on Nov. 30, 1859, Abraham Lincoln began a week's visit to several small towns in the northeast part of Kansas, which was then the Kansas Territory. He had been invited by Mark W. Delahay, who was married to a cousin of Mr. Lincoln. At that time he was editor of the **Wyandotte Register** in Leavenworth.

Lincoln crossed the state of Missouri by rail and took the ferry from St. Joseph to Elwood. That evening he addressed a small group of political admirers in the dining room of the Great Western Hotel. In the midst of a raging blizzard Lincoln's party traveled the next day from Elwood to Troy. On the



road they met Henry Villard, a newspaper correspondent from the Colorado gold-fields, who loaned Mr. Lincoln a buffalo robe to turn the bitter Kansas wind.

Following an address in the Troy courthouse, Lincoln went on to Doni-

phan where he made a speech of which nothing is recorded. The following morning the party, which seemed to pick up followers at every stop, accompanied Mr. Lincoln to Atchison which was, at that time, one of the principal towns in the Territory. A local citizen committee received Mr. Lincoln at the Massoit House. A reception followed the speech after which both free-state and pro-slavery men vied with each other to show respect and good will toward the speaker.

The following day Mr. Lincoln went to Leavenworth where in Stockton's Hall he addressed one of the largest crowds ever assembled in the Territory. In discussing the policies of the Republican Party, Mr. Lincoln made a firm assertion that he would never condone violence and insubordination of any political faction to a legally elected president.

Lincoln visited a few days with the Delahays and expressed great interest in the election on Dec. 6 of the first state officers to be elected under the Wyandotte Constitution. Following a second speech at Stockton's Hall, Lincoln was honored by a reception at Planter's House. On Dec. 7 Mr. Lincoln took a stage to St. Joseph and returned to Springfield, Ill., on Dec. 9.

(Excerpts taken from an address by Alan W. Farley to the Fort Leavenworth Historical Society, Ft. Leavenworth, Nov. 1959.)

THE
FOLLOWING
TABLE
GIVES
A SUMMARY
OF THE
RESULTS
OBTAINED
IN THE
EXPERIMENTS
CONCERNING
THE
EFFECT
OF
TEMPERATURE
ON
THE
RATE
OF
REACTION

